

Message Text

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64

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4851

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1683

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR BF

SUBJ: EXTRADITON - ROBERT L. VESCO

REF: NASSAU 1681

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT (A) COPIES OF THE EXTRA-DITION DOCUMENTATION BE SENT IMMEDIATELY AS HEARING SET FOR NOVEMBER 13 AND (B) A DECISION BE MADE ON ATTORNEYS.

2. ONE OF VESCO'S ATTORNEYS, EUGENE DUPUCH, QUEEN'S COUNSEL, TELEPHONED EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 6 TO FIND OUT WHO THE US'S LOCAL LAWYER IS SO THAT HE COULD BEGIN PRE-HEARING CONSULTATIONS. DCM TOLD DUPUCH WE ARE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON RE CHOICE OF ATTORNEY.

3. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT DECISIONS ON CONDUCT OF US SIDE OF CASE ARE FOR THE JUSTICE DEPT TO MAKE, THE EMBASSY FEELS AN OBLIGATION TO RECORD ITS VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN LIGHT OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL SCENE. AN EARLY DECISION ABOUT THE QUESTION OF ATTORNEYS IS IMPERATIVE. THE HEARING IS SET FOR TUESDY, NOVEMBER 13. VESCO'S ATTORNEY, DUPUCH, IS ONE OF ONLY TWO QC'S IN THE BAHAMAS AND HAS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT A JUSTICE DEPT ATTORNEY BE SENT TO ADVISE ON QUESTIONS OF US LAW, AND CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO RETAINING A QC FROM LONDON (THE OTHER LOCAL QC WOULD HAVE CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THIS CASE) FOR THE US IN ADDITION TO WALLACE-WHITFIELD. IMPORTATION OF A QC MUST BE APPROVED
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BY THE BAHAMAS BAR COUNCIL AND BAHAMIAN IMMIGRATION.

4. IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE ATONCE A SECOND SET OF THE DOCUMENTATION GIVEN TO ATTORNEY GENERAL ADDERLEY ON NOV-

EMBER 1 TO GIVE THE LOCAL ATTORNEY IN PREPARATION OF THE CASE.
ALSO ALL ADDITIONAL PERTINENT DOCUMENTATION MUST BE HERE
BEFORE THE TUESDAY HEARING.

5. IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT VESCO'S ATTORNEYS WILL APPEAL ANY
ADVERSE DECISION (THROUGH THE SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS
AND ULTIMATELY POSSIBLY TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN LONDON). ALL
APPEALS ARE DEALT WITH ONLY ON THE BASIS OF THE RECORD OF THE
MAGISTRATE'S COURT AND ON DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED TO THAT
COURT. THUS IT IS VITAL THAT ALL PERTINENT EVIDENCE BE PRE-
SENTED AT THE INITIAL HEARING.

6. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE HEARING WILL BE EXTENSIVE. ARRANGE-
MENTS ARE BEING MADE BY THE BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICE TO
ALLOW THE TV NETWORKS TO FILM DURING THE HEARING.
SPIERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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